5. ARAMIDES ALBIVENTRIS.

Occiput and part of hind neck brownish cinnamon; chin and throat whitish; fore part of the head and crown, with the neck behind and in front of a clear bluish gray; back and wings greenish olive; rump, tail, flanks, abdomen and under tail coverts black; thighs smoky black; quills bright reddish cinnamon; under wing coverts dull pale cinnamon, with blackish bars; breast pale cinnamon, this color extending round partly on the back; the elongated feathers of the breast, which extend down the sides of the abdomen are white, and form a conspicuous broad mark in shape of the letter U inverted, which contrasts strikingly with the reddish and black colors above and below it; the bill is orange as far as the nostrils and pale greenish yellow at the end; the legs appear to have been light vermillion.

Length about 21 in.; wing $7\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$; bare part of tibia 1; tarsi 3; bill $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat.—British Honduras.

Remarks.—I have had the above described specimen for some time, and considered it to be a new species, but delayed publishing it. I have recently obtained another precisely like it, that came from Guatemala.

It differs from *A. Cayennensis*, Gm., in the breast being of a pale instead of a deep cinnamon red, and in having the white mark on the abdomen.

Additional Note on the "CHINCH-BUG."

BY HENRY SHIMER, M. D.

The "Chinch-bug" has entirely disappeared from this region, so far as I have been able to observe. I have made diligent search since spring, with the object of obtaining a few living specimens, but up to this time have not succeeded in finding a single specimen. I am convinced that the efficient cause of their entire destruction exists in the continuation of the epidemic among them. Their overthrow is a cause of great rejoicing among the farmers. And once more, as of yore, they have realized a bountiful wheat harvest. I have but one thing to regret in their annihilation; I neglected to obtain a good supply of specimens, while they might have been secured by the wagon load.

Mt. Carroll, Ill., Sept. 16, 1867.

Prof. Cope gave an account of the extinct reptiles which approached the birds. He said that this approximation appeared to be at two points. The first by the Pterosauria, to which the modified bird Archaeopteryx presented points of affinity. The second, and one not less striking, is by the Dinosauria of the orders Goniopoda and Symphypoda. He showed the essential differences between the ordinary Dinosauria and the birds to consist in the distinct tarsal bones in two series, the anteriorly directed pubes, and the presence of teeth, of the first class. In the genus Lælaps Cope, type of the Goniopoda, the proximal series of tarsal bones was principally represented by one large astragaloid piece which had a very extensive motion on those of the second series. This was immovably bound to, and embraced, the tibia, and was perhaps continuous with the fibula, much resembling the structure of the foot of the chick of the ninth day, as given by Gegenbaur. The zygomatic arch was of a very light description. He was convinced that the most bird-like of the tracks of the Connecticut sandstone were made by a nearly allied genus, the Bathygnathus Leidy. These creatures, no doubt, assumed a more or less erect position, and the weight of the viscera, etc., was supported by the slender and dense pubic bones, which were to some extent analogous to the marsupial bones of Implacental Mammalia, though probably not homologous with them.

He said he was satisfied that the so-called clavicles of Iguanodon and other Dinosauria were pubes, having a position similar to those of the Crocodilia.

Also that a species of Lælaps had been observed in France, by Cuvier, which was different from the L. aquilunguis, and which he proposed should be called Lælaps gallicus.

Compsognathus Wagner, type of the Symphypoda, expressed the characters of the latter in the entire union of the tibia and fibula with the first series of tarsal bones, a feature formerly supposed to belong to the class Aves alone, until pointed out by Gegenbaur. This genus also offered an approach to the birds in the transverse direction of the pubes, (unless this be due to distortion in the specimen figured by Wagner,) their position being intermediate between the position in most reptiles and in birds. Other bird-like features were the great number and elongation of the vertebræ of the neck, and the very light construction of the arches and other bones of the head.

He thought the penguin, with its separated metatarsals, formed an approach on the side of the birds, but whether the closest approximation to the Symphypoda should be looked for here or among the long-tailed Ratitæ (ostrich, etc.,) he was unable to indicate.

The following reports of the Curators, Librarian and Recording Secretary were read :

REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The Curators, in the presentation of their usual Annual Report, take pleasure in announcing to the members of the Academy that its Museum is throughout in a fair state of preservation, and during the last year has continued to increase, through the interest and liberality of the lovers of natural history. Through the same qualities we have been provided with a large amount of means, upwards of $100,000, towards the purchase of ground and the erection of a more capacious building to accommodate the Museum. However, even after sufficient means are procured for the completion of this object, it is not enough for the interests of the Academy and Science that we should stop here. The Museum has now acquired such giant proportions that voluntary labor can no longer be depended upon for the arrangement of the cabinet; indeed, the Museum in its present unarranged and often confused condition, loses the greater part of its value to students. The time has arrived when it is highly important that means should be obtained to employ a Curator and competent assistants whose duty it shall be to classify, arrange, and label the collection and maintain it in perfect order.

The Museum of the Academy has become one of the most attractive places of visit in our city, and with its collections properly arranged and labelled will become a great school of popular instruction. During the past year, though open only, as usual, two half days weekly, it was visited by 51,520 persons.

If our city government appreciated the importance of the Academy as a school of instruction to the people, it could not hesitate to aid it in its object, by appropriating for its use, as has been repeatedly suggested, one of the public squares at Broad and Market Streets.

The following account exhibits the contributions to the Museum in its various departments during the year.

Mammals.—Fifteen specimens were presented by Dr. J. H. Slack, Dr. H. B. Butcher, U. S. A., S. Powel, Rev. Alden Grant, Mr. Reeves, Joseph E. Shaw, G. J. Durham, O. Biddle, W. S. Vaux, and E. D. Cope.

Birds.—One hundred and ninety-one from Alaska and Hudson Bay Territory, were presented by the Smithsonian Institution; 67 from Texas, by Dr. H. B. Butcher, U. S. A., and 43 species of birds, nests and eggs, were presented by Dr. William Zaremba, Dr. V. B. Hubbard, U. S. A., Rev. Alden